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TRAVEL PAINTOUT

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U.S. Travel Data Center

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TIA, Data Center Ties Strengthened

The Board of Trustees of the U.S. Travel Data Center has approved a number of changes in the Data Center's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

The effect of these changes, which were recommended by the corporate strategic planning committee of the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) and endorsed last April by the TIA Board of Directors, is to further strengthen the close ties between the Data Center and TIA by placing the Data Center under the administrative direction of TIA.

The Data Center will remain a separate, nonprofit organization with its own board of trustees to develop and oversee its research programs.

Approved at a June 1 meeting of the Data Center trustees in Phoenix, the purpose of the changes, explains Data Center chairman, Robert Gall, is "to improve the ability of TIA to represent the interests of the U.S. travel industry in matters of common concern, while maintaining the high quality of information and research that the Data Center has provided for the travel industry over the past 13 years."

Established by TIA and the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1972, the Data Center is widely recognized as the authoritative, national research organization on matters concerning travel and tourism.

TIA is the national, nonprofit association representing all components of the U.S. travel industry, the third largest retail industry in the United States.##

Travel Posts Long-Awaited Increase in 1985

American travelers covered 960 billion domestic miles and spent 5.8 billion nights away from home last year. Travelers' mileage rose 16 percent and nights increased 10 percent over 1984 figures, bringing travel to its highest levels in four years.

The 1985 increase is reflected in the seventh annual National Travel Survey, conducted by the U.S. Travel Data Center.

The monthly telephone survey, which contacted 18,000 American adults last year and excluded trips less than 100 miles from home, showed that in an average month, over 41 million of the nation's travelers took at least one trip, totaling 1.08 billion person-trips for the year, a 6 percent increase over 1984. (A person-trip is counted each time anyone goes 100 miles or more from home.)

For the first time, the full year report examines hotel/motel guests, and 27 percent of hotel/motel guests traveled by air. Approximately 41 percent of all travel included at least one night in a hotel or motel.

Air travel overall climbed 25 percent over year-earlier levels; however, auto/truck/RV travel rose less than 1 percent. Nevertheless, personal motor vehicles accounted for 75 percent of travel in 1985, the survey showed.

Attending a business meeting or convention necessitated travel by 8.8 million Americans in an average month, about one-third of which were women, a growing segment of the travel marketplace in recent years.

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Travel Prices Fall for Third Consecutive Month

Declining gasoline prices contributed to the third straight monthly decrease in travel costs, which fell 0.6 percent in April, according to the US Travel Data Center's Travel Price Index (TPI).

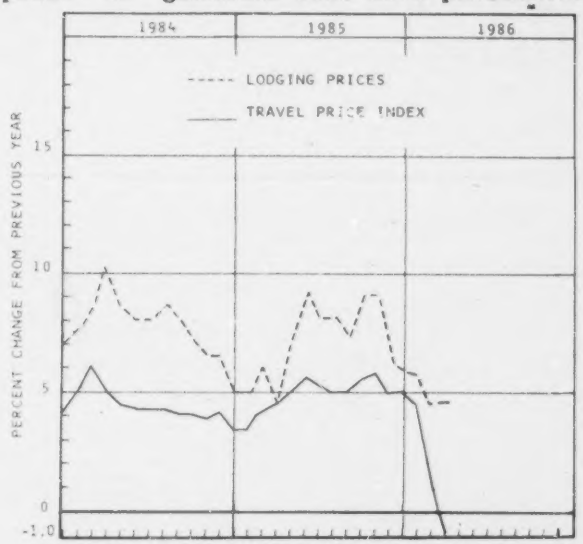
For comparison, consumer goods costs, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), declined 0.2 percent in April.

The TPI, which measures changes in the seasonally unadjusted prices of lodging, food, transportation and other goods and services purchased by Americans traveling away from home in the United States, dropped to 374.0 (1967=100) in April, its lowest level since March 1985.

Gasoline prices fell 9.5 percent in April, the fourth consecutive monthly decline for this category.

The cost of lodging rose the most, 2.0 percent, followed by intercity bus fares, 1.2 percent. The cost of entertainment services gained 0.5 percent while all other components rose 0.4 percent or less.

Travel prices were down 0.9 percent from 12 months earlier, representing the first annual decrease in travel prices since the TPI began in 1969. For comparison, the CPI increased 1.6 percent since April of last year. The price of gasoline fell 25.5 percent.##



Travel Prices Fall Despite Lodging Price Increase

Monthly and Annual Rates of Change in the Travel Price Index and Components
April 1986

TPI Component	Monthly Percent Change March 1986 to April 1986	Annual Percent Change April 1985 to April 1986
Transportation	- 3.3	- 8.4
Airline Fares	0.3	3.6
Intercity Bus Fares	1.2	13.8
Intercity Train Fares	0.2	4.2
Taxicab Fares	0.1	3.0
Gasoline	- 9.5	-25.5
Lodging	2.0	4.7
Food Away From Home	0.4	3.8
Entertainment Services	0.5	5.3
Incidentals	0.2	1.5
TRAVEL PRICE INDEX	- 0.6	- 0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	- 0.2	1.6

Source: US Travel Data Center and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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TRAVEL PRINTOUT reports on the results of Data Center projects, national travel research conducted by other respected organizations, and trends in the U.S. travel industry. Subscriptions are available for $55 per year, U.S., Canada and Mexico; other foreign countries, $85 per year, payable in U.S. funds only.

Travel Posts Increase in February

Travel by Americans rose from 44 million person-trips in February 1985 to 49 million a year later, an increase of almost 12 percent. (A person-trip is measured each time anyone goes 100 miles or more away from home.)

The February increase is reflected in the National Travel Survey, a monthly telephone survey of more than 1,500 American adults conducted by TIA's research affiliate, the US Travel Data Center.

According to the survey, vacation travel decreased 6 percent, while weekend travel increased 16 percent.

Business/convention travel showed significant gains, and pleasure travel (visiting friends and relatives, outdoor recreation, sightseeing and entertainment) grew almost 6 percent.

Average trip duration fell to 5.0 nights from 5.4 nights one year earlier.

Perhaps resulting from lower gasoline prices, travel by personal motor vehicle increased dramatically from February 1985; however, air travel showed a weak 1 percent increase.

The South Atlantic/East South Central Census region was the most popular with American travelers.

Results from the National Travel Survey are projectable to the total U.S. adult population.##

Full Year

(continued from page 1)

Weekend travel, which represented slightly less than half of all travel in 1985, increased 8 percent.

The South Atlantic Census region was the most popular choice of American travelers, as in the previous three years, hosting 21 percent of the 1985 U.S. travel market. The greatest number of travelers also came from the South Atlantic region, which produced 18 percent of all travelers, followed by the East North Central Census region, which generated 16 percent.

The 1985 National Travel Survey Full Year Report is based on telephone interviews with over 1,500 adult Americans each month in 1985. It includes over 100 pages of tables, charts, analysis and comparisons with 1984. It is available for $110 (prepaid) from the US Travel Data Center, 1899 L Street, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036. ##

Visitor Volume at National Parks

Region	MAR 1986 visits*	Change from MAR 1985 (percent)	Percent change 1986/1985 Year-to-Date
NEW ENGLAND	408,289	12.4	7.1
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	1,306,205	20.8	11.3
SOUTH EAST	8,931,924	12.9	10.3
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	232,115	31.0	18.4
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	311,572	29.1	20.8
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	825,552	10.0	20.0
MOUNTAIN	2,081,197	28.1	18.6
PACIFIC	2,894,302	9.3	6.5
TOTAL	16,991,066	14.8	11.1

* adjusted for differences in reporting units

States comprising the Census regions:

NEW ENGLAND: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont. MIDDLE ATLANTIC: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania. SOUTH EAST: Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia. EAST NORTH CENTRAL: Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin. WEST NORTH CENTRAL: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota. WEST SOUTH CENTRAL: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas. MOUNTAIN: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming. PACIFIC: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington.

Current Travel Indicators

CURRENT TRAVEL INDICATORS	Current Month	Current Value	Percent Change From Previous Month	Percent Change From Year-ago Month	Percent Change Year-to-date 1985/84
Establishment receipts or retail sales					
Hotels, motels and other lodging places(1)	Mar	$ 3,428 million	3.2	4.4	5.5
Eating and drinking places(2)	Mar	$11,297 million	0.4	4.9	6.0
Gasoline service stations(2)	Mar	$ 7,603 million	- 7.1	- 9.9	- 2.8
Commercial lodging demand					
Hotel/motel occupancy rate(3)	Mar	62.5 percent	0.0	- 4.0	- 1.3
Real demand for commercial lodging(4)	Mar	54.3 million	8.6	1.2	1.7
Airline passenger traffic(5)					
Domestic revenue passenger-miles	Mar	21.7 billion	24.3	6.0	8.9
International revenue passenger-miles	Mar	4.6 billion	31.5	7.3	7.5
Highway traffic volume(6)					
Rural arterial vehicle-miles	Mar	38.2 billion	30.0	7.3	7.0
Rail passenger traffic(7)					
Amtrak passenger-miles	Mar	411.8 million	31.8	9.4	6.4
Travel Price Index(8)	Mar	376.2	- 1.9	1.1	3.4
U.S. resident travel(9)					
Total person-trips	Feb	49.1 million	-22.1	11.8	6.9
Vacation person-trips	Feb	23.2 million	-39.6	- 5.7	- 6.2
Total person-nights	Feb	245.5 million	-26.0	3.6	16.5
Vacation person-nights	Feb	139.2 million	-44.2	-14.3	13.3
Public use of national parks(10)					
Visits	Mar	17,331,480	72.0	13.6	13.8
Overnight stays	Mar	676,588	60.5	4.7	3.5
Foreign arrivals in U.S.(11)					
From overseas	Jan	576,970	-16.9	0.5	2.1
From Canada	Mar	1,031,942	78.0	9.0	4.0
U.S. citizen departures(11)					
To overseas	Jan	984,270	- 0.8	13.2	8.8
To Canada	Mar	526,004	27.3	16.1	16.3
Domestic demand for motor gasoline(12)					
Barrels per day	Mar	6,887 thousand	7.0	3.9	1.7

N/A = not available

(1) Source: Smith Travel Research, seasonally unadjusted. (2) Preliminary; adjusted for seasonal variation and trading day differences. Source: Bureau of the Census. (3) Source: Smith Travel Research, seasonally adjusted. (4) Source: Smith Travel Research, unadjusted room nights sold. (5) Preliminary; U.S. scheduled service air carriers. Source: U.S. Department of Transportation. (6) Source: Federal Highway Administration. (7) Source: National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak). (8) Source: U.S. Travel Data Center and Bureau of Labor Statistics. (9) Source: U.S. Travel Data Center. (10) Preliminary; unadjusted for differences in reporting units. Source: National Park Service. (11) Source: Statistics Canada and Nettleton Travel Research Center. (12) Preliminary; Source: U.S. Department of Energy.

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